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Dated: October 12, 2004

Signature:

(Tia B Zimmerman)

Docket No.: 404172000300

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Ilaria CAPUA et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: PURIFIED SUBFRAGMENT CODIFYING

FOR NEUROAMINIDASE, RECOMBINANT

NEUROAMINIDASE AND ITS USE IN

ZOOPROPHYLAXIS

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests entry on this Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.